Oct.1833 George W.Johnson's Journal-1833-1834-1835 (A65-37)

Buffalo Tuesday,October 1,1833

In Law & Land Offices. Usual Routine
In Pocket $21.

Paid prm(~~direct~~ disct) on my $100 note to U.S.Br.B'k $1.94

Wrote to Miss Letitia Porter Thompson,Lewiston Academy
First letter

Oct 2,3,4 - Usual Routine - Law & Land Office

Oct.5.--- Miss Letitia Porter Thompson writes me from Lewiston,Adademy,in reply to letters from me.Describes a little party and sleigh ride.Wants to jog Marion Harrington to reply to her letter.This entry should be Jan'y 5,1835.

L+L.O.

Oct.6- Sunday At Ch. Seth Tiffany replies to mine of 2d Sept.of last year,covering $5 & mine of 13th Aug.last,covering $10. See 16th. Mailed 19th.

Agenda. Write Ann McD.again,Letitia,Mrs.Tredway's daughter,Jos. Howard,jr.,Esq., Porter,Mr.Wheaton again,Miss S.again(May) on American poetry,Williams editor of Register,Thomas,uncle Elijah Tredway.

Oct.7.- A sane mind,however much subjective,can regulate its own operations. It can exclude from its comtemplation painful objects and painful remembrances. From my past I will select the most pleasing,and I will dwell on them to the exclusion of all others.

Mon. L+L.O.

8-L+LO

Oct.9.- LLO; Rec'd from H.L.C.$5. For making deed & witness fee $1. Paid Henry Morris,Esq.,agant N.Y.Life & Trust Co.,prem.on my Life Policy for $1500 for one year beginning to-morrow $22.40. Overpaid Mr.Morris $1.25.
Wrote to Miss Agnes L.Thompson,Lewiston Axademy.First letter. Replied to 30th.

Wed. L+L.O.

10-12-LLO - H. J. Luden writes from Pittsburgh Sun-13- at Church

Oct.14- LLO; Wrote to Ann McDonald."Mailed 15th.Written on Bank paper & enclosed in a wrapper. 3pp. (3½pp)"

15-LLO.

Oct.16- LLO; Cousin Seth Tiffany's letter recd.Says I have remitted $2 which he returns with my note cancelled. Uncle & Aunt Tredway well. Lydia Tredway married 29th Sept.,last month,& left next day with her husband,a Squire Raynsford,Bridgewater, Penn. Gardner Gallop lives in West Leyden,12 or 15 miles from Rome,N.Y. & has lived there 3 or 4 years. "Sir,you requested me to give you some information respecting that letter Mr. John Tredway write you;but I am unable to give you any. I verily believe there is not any one of your relatives in Conn. but what would disapprove of any such thing. We should be pleased to receive a visit from you. Nancy sends love." This letter was not mailed till the 19th,& was recd.the 25th.

Wed

17-19-LLO. Wrote again to Agnes

Oct.20- Sunday at ch.; Wrote Uncle Elijah Tredway,Esq.,Salem,Ct.,& sent him $10. Rochester B'k bill. Mailed today.

Mr Luden writes 12th from Pittsburg his cough worse - Wants me to write to him directing to Meadville Penn. -

THE BUFFALO HISTORY MUSEUM

George W. Johnson's Journal-1833-1834-1835

1833

21+22 LLO.

Oct.23- LLO; Jesse D.Sarles writes. M'd 24th.See 31st. A late reply indeed. I stopped at this man's tavern in Mechanie,when I met Thomas there in the summer(July) of last year & thinking I had paid him inadequately though I paid all he charged,I sent him $2 as a present for his fine children & also $1 to treat my friend Ben Schryver's brother Abraham,subsequently. The queerness is that the man should reply after so great lapse of time. I have been twice in the same town since without calling on him,or seeing him.

Oct.24 LLO; Recd from H.L.C,$10. Pd on a/c J.N.Reynolds for clothes $10.

Oct.25- LLO; Recd from H.L.C.$5; Recd back from Seth Tiffany,Salem, Ct.$2. in his of the 6th. Pd Lester Brace on board $5.

Oct.26-LLO; Cash out during month. Apples 10. Ventriloquist,25. Hair cutting,&c 37.

Oct.27 Sunday; At Ch. Ben Johnson,jr.,Ithaca,son of Haynes,writes from Ithaca. See 31st. M'd to-day.PP18.
Wrote to Homer Wheaton,Esq.,Lethgrow,N.Y., B.J.jr.,about to be admitted as att'y. Asks for partnership or clerkship. Did I ever hear of Ben before? Is a son of Haynes. His father quarreled with & wronged mine. Shall I "keep good the old grudge" & not reply? No,I will reply civilly.

Mon. 28- LLO. Mr Luden writes from Meadville, Penn.

Oct.29- LLO; Recd from HLC $3. Pd Lester Brace $3 on board. Guess Hollenbeck on a/c for books & shoes $5. German for mending $1.37. David M.Day pd Nov.4th for Buffalo Journal to this day $3.12. Wine 6.

Oct.30-LLO; Mr.Luden's of 28th mailed today. Miss Agnes L.Thompson dau.Sheldon Thompson writes from Lewiston Academy. See to-mo.

Oct.31- LLO; Recd from HLC $1.37; H.I.Luden writes,28ththat he got to Meadville a week ago.Is sick of bilious fever,besides bad breast & lungs. Will be back in a few days.Is in terms kind.

Jesse D.Sarles,"Mechanic,"Washington,D.N.Y. writes the 23d,in reply to my letters of last summer & fall,a year ago. Acknowledges $2 which I enclosed & distributed same among his children as I requested & also $1 for treating Carmen & Schryver,Ben's bro.,"& Schryver got drunk as the devil for two days in succession & drank a number of toasts in your behalf." Gives me the names of Robert Coffin,& Gen.Henry D.Davis,latter removed to Kinderhook,whose acquaintance I made a year ago last summer. Bennet Wing,to whom he gave my respects,married to Miss Ellemor Ellerson. "Both stiff orthodox." Gave my respects to Jacob Willets. Says he shall be in Buffalo in June.(P.S.Have never seen Sarles since.Feb.22 1862.) The two Misses Thompsons Letitia Porter & Agnes L.are at school in Lewiston,hardly in their teens,are at the Academy inLewiston,& at their father's suggestion,& by their wish,I am to correspond with them by letter for the

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Oct.

purpose of improving them in epistolary writing. A pleasing task, for they are two sweet girls. Agnes replied yesterday to mine of- Is studying French, Latin, Geometry & Botany. Translates a Latin couplet that I sent her. A very pretty reply. Signs herself, my friend.

Ben Johnson jr., Hayne's son, of whom I hear for the first time writes, 27th, that he is about to be examined for the bar in Albany & New York & wants to know if I can tell him of a partnership or a paying clerkship. Thinks of fixing in this or the Western States. Asks me to direct to Albany, or New York, or Ithaca. Says Uncle & Aunt Ben send respects & solict a visit. Cousin Ben jr., was brought up & educated by Uncle Ben & studied law in his office, I infer. Replied, Nov. 3d.

– also letter from Jesse Sarley (ink very faded)

Original document

$100. Oct. 1, 1833

Four months after data I promise to pay to the order of Edward Paine at the office of Discount and Deposit of the Bank of the United States at Buffalo, N.Y., one hundred Dollars, for value received.

George Washington Johnson

Pay proceeds to drawers
S Osborn.

Buffalo, Friday, November 1, 1833

In Law & Land Offices. In usual routine; Rec'd from HLC $5
Note to Porter Thompson, son of Sheldon Thompson, a lad at school, as follows;

Land Office, Nov. 1, 1833.

My dear Porter; The Latin hexameters that I this morning promised to send you, the same that I sent your sister Agnes, at Lewiston, are as follows; "Laudat alauda deum scandit in altum: Laudat alauda deum dum cadit in terram." Will you please try and translate the lines into English, and put your translation on paper.

I am, my dear Porter,
affectionately yours,
Geo. W. Johnson

Master Porter Thompson, present.

Sat -2- Sun 3 - at ch,
LLO. Nov. 4th; LLO; Rec'd from HLC. $10. This tomorrow. Recd. HLC. today, $3. Also 55 cts included in expenses to balance but not yet paid to Vosburgh being chgd to me by him. Letitia writes again. Says Kate Coloin sends love, & subscribes, "Your affectionate friend." Thinks her father & myself "highly honored in naming that child." M'd 5th & recd 6th Replies of mine of-

Had trunk blacked by Vosburgh & Prets .50

5 - LLO
Nov. 6- Wed. LLO; Cash out. For milk can 50. Bread basket 19. Crackers & cheese 31. Began to dispense with dinner & lunch at Brace's boarding-house. Letitia's letter of 4th rec'd.

Nov. 7- LLO; Cash out. Mending boots 50. Lent Miss Sophia Whitney 6.

Nov. 8- LLO; Rec'd for writing 2 assignments, 50 In pocket $5.37. Cash out. Expenses to & from Batavia on HLC business, chgd to

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Comp. $6.50. Wrote to Elizabeth H. Tredway, Hartsville, N.Y. Mailed to-day. Replied to 9th Dec.

← 13th LLO. Wrote again to Letitia

Nov.14 LLO; By printed circular, invited to be present at sale of Unit. Ch. pews on the 18th. Trustees, Ira A. Blossom, John W. Beals
E.D. Efner Jas. McKay, & Noah Paul Sprague.

Nov.15 LLO; Paid for milk, 19. Lunch at grocery, 12. Mr. Luden who started on a trip to Phila. soon after my return from D.C. the last of Sept., returned, I think, about this time.

16 - LLO. Sun. 17 at ch.

Nov.18-LLO; Recd from HLC $3.25 & for writing deed to Sarles, 75. Cash out. For Milk, 12½. Made statement of my indebtedness & int. thereon. See 21st. 2 p.m. Sale by auction of Unitarain Ch pews. Attended but did not buy.

Nov.19- LLO; Recd from HLC. $10. Cash out, Paid E.D. Efner on note for clothes, $10. Pie & milk for rooms, 19.

Nov.20- LLO; Unitarian Chapel dedicated. Sermon by Rev. John Pierpont, Rev. Wm. Steill Brown regularly installed pastor.

Nov.21 - LLO; Cash out, For pie at rooms, 25. Names of N.E. creditors. Dart. Coll., Jos. Bell, Stephen Brown, —— Burnham, —— Dewey, Goodhue & Merrill, Hawley & Gilman, J.H. Harris, John Johnson 3d, Shephard Leach, Jas. Poole, Henry Perkins, —— Wheeler, James Willis, John Williams; whose debts amount to $736. On this sum I am paying interest & also on $275. of Buffalo debts; on, in all, $1011. Int at 7 per cent is $70.77 annually on this sum, being $1.36 a week. On N.E. debts, I owed, Aug 14, 1832, Prin. & int. $1116, Interest on the same since, $60. In Buffalo I owe $454. In all I owe to-day, $1630.

My weekly salary is $11.54. Weekly outgoes: Int on above $1.36 Washing & Board (as now) $1.50, clothing, &c, $1.18: total $4.04, leaving $7.50 clear in my favor weekly or $390 a year. But washing & board are under stated.
From my $600 salary I could discharge my $1630 indebtedness above, in 4 years, & save $400, besides property now in possession.

Nov.22- Fri. LLO; Cash out. For milk 13 Began to dispense with regular, meals at Brace's boarding-house. Meals hereafter taken there herein credited. Joseph Riley, Aurora, writes that Zane A. Hamilton makes me the debtor. Sends letter by N.K. Hall.

Nov.23- Sat. LLO; Cash out. For rooms, 1pt Maderia, 50. Pumpkin pie, 25.

Nov.24- Sunday; Breakfast at Brace's, 12. At Ch. Joseph Riley, Aurora, writes, that Zane A/Hamilton had trumped up an a/c to overbalance mine. Ah Zane! Invites me when I can visit Aurora to stop with him. The principal of the Academy, which has been some months in operation in the new building, (my Academy continued) is a Mr. Howard who boards with Joseph who speaks highly of his talents.

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Nov.25- Mon. LLO; Cash out; 1 day's board & lodging at Brace's, being sick, 50; Crackers & milk for rooms, 20;

Nov.26- LLO; Recd more for writing deed for Sarles, 50;

Nov.27-LLO; Cash out, Apple pie for rooms, 25, milk, 13

Nov.28- Thurs. LLO; Recd from HLC. $2 & $5. for writing lease, 25. Cash out for rooms. Wine glass 25. Mince pie, 25; Tea at Brace's, 12; Lunch & wine 10. Pd Birdsye Wilcox on a/c for looking-glass $5. (Portrait frames)

Nov.29- LLO; Cash out. Milk for rooms, 16; Wrote Ann McDonald & mailed. "7th on silver edged paper. Italic-print all save Sunday & Monday evenings."

Nov.30- LLO; Cash out. Tea at Brace's, 12. Homer Wheaton, Lithgow, replies to my last two & says he has been much from home. As usual, is brief & diplomatic. Family all well except Mrs. Wheaton who was thrown from a wagon & somewhat injured, some time before he wrote. Mailed Dec. 2d. Recd. Dec 8th.

The Unitarian So. begin this month to occupy their fine new chapel. Ever since my return from Dutchess, Sept. 28th, I have been resolute & industrious, There was need of it.

Original document(printed)

The Sale of Pews in the First Unitarian Church will take place on Monday, November 18, at 2 o'clock p.m..

Ira A. Blossom
John W. Beals
Jas. M'Kay → E. D. Efner
N. P. Sprague
Trustees

Buffalo, November 14, 1833

Original letter

Aurora Novbr 24th 1833

G.W.J. Esq,

Dr Sir the following is a True Bill just Recd from Messr E. Clapp & Co Books

Mr. Philip D. Riley for (G W J) Bot of E.C. & Co.

10 yd Blk Cambric	2/6	$3.13	
1½ doz Buttons	1/	15	
½yd Irish Linen	5/6	34	
		$3.62	$3.62

Chargd Z A Hamilton a/c March 12 1832

Mr. G.W.J.-To Z. A. Hamilton Dr To use of saddle	2.00
April 30th 1832. paid Edwin Fowler	6.00
	11.12
Cr By Lane Bill agreeable to Letter	9.00
Balance due Z. A. H	$2.62

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Letter cont'd.

that is the was Zane a/c stand so says Mr. Hamilton but perhaps you may think different Mr. Hamilton makes the same proposition you did, that is, he will take the balance out of my store. Mr. Hamilton showed me an order in your handwriting dated as above (April 30th 1832) signed by him (L. A. H.) which he says you handed E. Fowler and he took it up. So you now have the reply, any further remarks you wish to make by letter or other ways I shall be happy to attend to it. I sent by Bartholomew Pratt to the old gentleman and the old Sir says he sent you 4 prs socks by William C. Johnson something like one year ago- and an Enquiry of Mr. Johnson he says he recollects of delivering you a bundle at your office-and so stands that, nothing new to my knowledge worth communicating.

We enjoy peaceable and pleasant times, whenever you can make it convenient to leave your Business we should be pleased to see in our place, and I should be happy to have you call and stop with me when you come up. Mr. Howard our principle in the academy is now liveing with me and you would be extremely pleased to become acquainted with. he is man without doubt of fine talents and fine and agreeable in company and one of your good feeling fellows- we will also when you come up show you how to trim the Foxes and other game.

Yours Sincere Friend
Jas. Riley

P.S. the a/c pd by Hamilton & Pratt I had concluded if pd as they state it probably was an older a/c than the ones you mention but you will know best about that. it is now snowing fine and a prospect of fine sleighing- no more
J.R

Buffalo, Sunday, December 1, 1833
At Ch. Tea at Brace's, 12.

Dec. 2 Mon. LLO; Recd from HLC. 40 cents; Cash out. 3qts milk, 19. pie 25, cheese, 7; "Tish" (Letitia P. Thompson) replies to mine of Is glad to hear from me & that her father, Sally Ann, Porter, & Katie & myself propose to come down at the close of the quarter. Agnes is so busy that she asks to be excused from writing at present.

3, 4, 5, LLO. also 6 & 7 Fri 6 - 3qts milk 19 2 pies, cheese & crackers 39

Dec. 8 Sunday; Began to take three meals a day at Brace's. At Ch. Mr. Wheaton's of the 30th recd. M'd 2nd.

Dec. 9 LLO; Cash out. Milk 13. Pie 25. Lunch 9. This 13th. Elizabeth H Tredway replies to mine of 8th ult. See 14th Wrote again to Agnes recommending her to devote 3 months to Greek.

Dec. 10 LLO; James Wood, Wales, wrote on Land Office business

← " 11 LLO 12, 13 - LLO - cash out milk 13, Pie 25 Lunch 9

Dec. 14 Meritt LLO: Elizabeth H Tredway's of the 9th recd. All well. Isaac Meritt has built a new house opposite store. Alfred E. Tiffany accompanied Mr. & Mrs. (Lydia Tredway) Raynsford as far as New York & then visited relations in Rome & returned by way of Hartsville & staid 3 or 4 days. Uncle Philip & her mother & sisters dined at Hamburg Height is teacher in Hartsville "Eliza says you promised to write a description of the "Stone Church." Neatly written and newsy though short. Began a sketch

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of myself & family, in my youth.

Dec.15 Sunday; Left off boarding at Brace's again, at eve At Ch Began a reply to Elizabeth's letter recd yesterday. Not finished till January.

Dec.16 Mon. LLO; Recd from HLC. 62½cts, Cash out, 1 pie 25. 3 lbs crackers 26. Crullers, 12. 4qts milk, 24. Rose before braod light. Ground bare & frozen. The last three days at has been bitterly cold. Pd Rev. Samuel Gail's bill on Rev. Wm. Steill Brown for $7, which Mr. Brown has repaid me.

17-20 LLO

Dec.21 LLO; Recd from HLC. $2. Cash out. For the Coran bid off at the sale of Rev. Wm. Steill Brown's library & presented back to him $1.

Dec.22 Sunday; Lunch 12. Apples 6. At Ch. Continued sketch of myself & family in my youth. Sketched reply to Homer Wheaton's letter of 30th ult. Copied & mailed it. "PP Beautifully penned."

Dec.23 LLO; Recd HLC. $10 Cash out. Pd Lester Brace $5 board. Vosburgh & Fritz towards trunk, on note, $4. Cutting hair, 13. Crackers & cheese for rooms 27. Coffee 6, at coffee-house.

Dec.24 LLO; Csh out Apples 4. Lunch 19.
Have gone over 12pp Eng. Definitions, letter V. I have been this evening been persuing my Lord Bolinbrook's Treatise on the study of History! What depth of thought. What acuteness! What directness, glow, and strength of style, worthy of Tully!

Bolinbrook is more favorable to Christianity than I can concientiously be. He is for purefying and retaining it. In his day, regarded as an infidel, he was in fact a Unitarian Christian. Hence the clamor of his age transmitted to ours about the danger of his principles. But my own theological opinions, founded not on those of others living or dead, but on my observations & reflections, are uninfluenced by Bolinbrook,'s exception in the direction of conservatism. I have never read Voltaire, Paine, &c.

Dec.25 LLO; I must continue to read Bolinbrook's excellent Treatise & give to my own style if possible, something of the life & unction of his. How much, in manner & matter do the writers of his surpass those of our times!

26-LLO 27. Lent colored man 31. 28-LLO

Dec.29 Sunday. Pd for lunch at coffee h. 12. At Ch.
Christmas. Christ's birthday is being everywhere celebrated. Christmas from a Jew's or an Infidel's standpoint. The celebration of the birthday of the Carpenter's reputed son; of the bastard by the Bible's own showing; of the come-by-chance; of the felins mullii, of one of the unfortunate fellows who have no father. The silly ignorant-fools of that day & this believe that his mother demirip Mary was "knocked up" by God.

Dec.30 LLO; For rooms, cakes, pie, & cheese, 63.

Dec.31 LLO; My debts in Buffalo. What I have paid since Oct. 1st.

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Dec.31 cont'd.
Life Policy $22.90.Myer & McClanem $10. J.N.Reynolds $10. Lester Brace $5. Elijah Tredway $10. U.S.Bk disc't $1.94.Lester Brace again $3. Hallenback $5. David M.Day $3.12. Elijah D.Efner $10 John Says $3. A.W.Wilgus $5. Lester Brace $5. J $5. Vosburgh & Prits $4. total $102.96.

What this day I owe in Buffalo; U.S.Br Bank $100. Gould & Co $25.50. Myer & McClanin $115. J.N.Reynolds $8. Higgins $65. Lester Brace $30. Vosburgh & Prits $3.50 A.W.Wilgus $10. Hallenback $5. Theo.Balter $16. Aurora Academy $10. Harrington $5. E.D.Efner $42. David M.Day,$10. Birdseye Wilcox $7. John Sage $10. Wm.Wilgus $12. Ketchum $6.50. R.W.Haskins $10.75. total $491.25.

I owe today,at the outgoing of 1833,five hundred dollars.In Buffalo,five hundred dollars! Five sixths of 1834's salary anticipated! But no one here or elsewhere knows how much or how little I owe. I am punctual. My credit is unquestioned.I could double my Buffalo debts.But not the less do they make me anxious. I will contract no more,and pay as fast as possible.

Since the first of Oct.ever since my return from Dutchess County Sept.28th,to be exact,I have been resolute & industrious though less so since the present month came in.

Resume of 1833

My law office with Fillmore & Hall;afterwards with Henry Morris. My services in the H.L.Company's Land office continued.

Ended my rather expensive flirtation with Mary Smith. In my 33rd yr. from Jan'y 5th. Studies;Greek,Latin,German,French,Hebrew,English, collating of an English dictionary,English composition,&c.

Boarded at O.G.Steel's & Lester Brace's. Correspondence with brother Thomas,with the Thompson children,with Dutchess County folks.

Remonstrated against the repeal of the non-imprisonment law. Death of dearest Louisa's eldest boy,my namesake,March 25th. Visit in April & Sept. Dutchess County,flirting,& in April New York City as delagate from the Erie Co.to American Lyceum. Saw Burr. N.K.Hall's office meanness,in May. Introduced to True P.Tucker at Brace's,in May.

Ellen Jannette,Nancy's dau.born,May 13th. Old despot Jackson goes North in May. Henry Morris' house is building,in May.

June

Daniel Webster in Buffalo. I act with Dyre Tillinghust in awarding Mr.Verrinders' prizes. Wm.Wilgus paints my portrait. Black Hawk in Buffalo. Take Rev.Brwon to the Indian Village & show him other attentions. Attend his preaching the year throughout.

July

Rode on horseback with ladies. Unitarian Church dedicated & occupied in Buffalo.(Nov.) Interview with Isaac Hill here.Introduced to Lewis Cass.

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August

Letter to & from Benjamin Hart. At Marcy dinner. Have sole charge of H.L.C's Land office, from the 10th. Gave Artimas Clapp a dinner.

Sept.

First half of the month in sole charge of H.L.C's office and the last half in Dutchess County.

Oct.

Began & continued through the rest of the year correspondence with the Thompson children. First letter from Ben Johnson, jr., of Ithaca, N.Y. Sent Elijah Tredway a gratuity of ten dollars. Pd Henry Morris prem. on life policy. Letter from Mr. Luden; We are all the year on pleasant terms.

Nov.

Unitarian Church pews sold by auction.

December

My debts in Buffalo amount to $500.

1833 most noticeable incidents: 1 My flirtation. 2. Interview with Aaron Burr. 3. Efforts to defeat repeal of non-imprisonment law. 4. Old Jackson's Northern tour. 5. Marcy dinner. 5. Boarding with Stiell. 6. Going to Indian Reservation with Rev. Brown & family. 7. Death of Louisa's 1st boy, my namesake, & birth of Nancy's Ellen Jannette. 8. Attempt to collate English dictionary. 9. Great increase of my Buffalo debts.

1833 a rather negative quantity

This year Miss Prudence Crandall attempted to teach colored children; the Connecticut legislature passed an act against the teaching of colored youth within the State and Miss C's school was broken up by a mob. Her school was in Lebanon, Ct.

(Typist note; It was Canterbury, Ct.)

Original letter

Dear Friend Dc 2 1833

I am very glad to hear from you for I have not had a leter this great while. I am very glad that Father and Porter and Sally Ann and caty are comeing down her for I am very lonesome here the quarter is out in two weeks from the 28 of November and I shall be very glad to here that you think of comeing hear Agnes says that she has no time to write you must excuse bad writing you most tell Father to come be fore thanksgiving if he can and if he dose not come a tal he will disapoint me very much for I shall expect them and you

Your affectionate Tacher P.L. Thompson

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